

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 H-02 PRS-01

EURE-00 /079 W

----- 121830

O R 221535Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3708

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 3553

ZFF LIBREVILLE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TP, PINS

SUBJECT: LIBERATION OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

REF: BRUSSELS 2651 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. INTERMEDIARY OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE  
LIBERATION ACTIVIST MIGUEL DAGRACA HAS MADE "URGENT  
APPEAL" FOR US ASSISTANCE. ACTION BY MLSTP HAS  
REPORTEDLY UNDERCUT MAOIST "CIVICA" ORGANIZATION. DAGRACA  
CLAIMS STRONG SUPPORT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN SAO TOME,  
GABON, PORTUGAL, AND ELSEWHERE. DAGRACA MAY CONTACT  
EMBASSY LIBREVILLE APRIL 23. END SUMMARY.

2. FRIEND OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE LIBERATION ACTIVIST  
MIGUEL DA GRACA, MENTIONED REFTTEL, CALLED AT EMBASSY  
APRIL 21 TO MAKE "LAST URGENT APPEAL" FOR US AID TO  
DA GRACA IN HIS EFFORT TO GAIN INFLUENTIAL POSITION (POSSIBLY  
PRESIDENCY) IN INDEPENDENT SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE. FRIEND SHOWED  
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US LETTER OF APRIL 10 HE HAD RECEIVED FROM DA GRACA.

3. IN LETTER DA GRACA SAYS HE WAS WELL-RECEIVED IN VISIT TO SAO TOME, WHERE ARMED FORCES TREATED HIM AS GUEST OF HONOR. DURING VISIT HE MADE RADIO BROADCAST IN WHICH HE DENOUNCED "CIVICA," DESCRIBED BY OUR SOURCE AS MAOIST POLITICAL GROUP WHICH OVERLAPS MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (MLSTP). BROADCAST IS SAID TO HAVE MADE HIM "QUASI-HERO."

4. ACCORDING TO LETTER ARMY IN SAO TOME (UNDER ITS COMMANDER, NETO) LAID PLANS MONTH AGO TO STAGE COUP AT INDEPENDENCE, BY-PASS MLSTP AND CIVICA, AND CALL ON DA GRACA TO BECOME COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT. WHEN NEWS OF THESE PLANS LEAKED OUT, MLSTP LEADERS CONCLUDED THAT MLSTP WAS TOO MUCH UNDER INFLUENCE OF CIVICA, WHICH MUST BE WEAKENED TO AVOID MILITARY COUP. THEY "UNDERTOOK CAMPAIGN AGAINST CIVICA AND SUCCEEDED IN GETTING RID OF THE MOST VIRULENT ELEMENTS." CIVICA LEADER GASTAO TORRES (REFTEL) IS SAID NOW TO BE UNABLE TO OBTAIN PORTUGUESE PERMISSION TO RETURN TO SAO TOME FROM LISBON.

5. LETTER SHOWS DA GRACA BELIEVES MLSTP LEADERS IN LIBREVILLE MAY TURN TO HIM FOR IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP POSITION "PERHAPS MINISTER", BECAUSE OF HIS PRESTIGE IN SAO TOME. SAYING THAT THIS HOLDS LITTLE INTEREST FOR HIM, HE NOTES THAT HE DOES NOT SEE WHO AMONG MLSTP LEADERS CAN FULFILL DUTIES OF COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT. HIS BROTHER, CARLOS, IS NOT INTERESTED IN PRESIDENCY AND MLSTP SECRETARY GENERAL DACOSTA DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH "PUNCH." DA GRACA CLAIMS THAT HIS SUPPORT IN SAO TOME, PORTUGAL, GABON, AND "AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL" IS VERY STRONG. HE ADVISES HIS FRIEND IN LETTER THAT NOW IS TIME TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO OBTAIN CONCRETE AID. (LETTER BY POUCH TO AF/S AND LIBREVILLE.)

6. FRIEND TOLD US THAT HE TALKED BY PHONE APRIL 21 WITH DA GRACA, WHO ASKED HIM TO MAKE FINAL URGENT APPEAL FOR US ASSISTANCE, AND ASKED WHOM IN LIBREVILLE HE SHOULD CONTACT TO STATE HIS OWN CASE. FRIEND ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF US ASSISTANCE FOR DA GRACA, STATING THAT

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FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE WOULD BE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO US. WE REPLIED THAT WE SAW NO POSSIBILITY THAT US WOULD BE WILLING TO BECOME INVOLVED. WE SAID THAT, IF DA GRACA WISHED TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE WITH US OFFICIALS, HE MIGHT WISH TO CALL ON EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE, WHERE HE RESIDES. FRIEND SAID THAT HE WOULD ADVISE DA GRACA TO CONTACT EMBASSY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23.

COMMENT: LETTER INDICATES THAT MIGUEL DA GRACA IS  
KEEPING HIS DISTANCE FROM MLSTP, EVIDENTALLY HOPING  
THAT ARMY IN SAO TOME WILL ASK HIM TO TAKE MAJOR ROLE  
IN NEW GOVERNMENT OR THAT HE WILL BECOME CONSENSUS  
CHOICE OF MLSTP AND LESS RADICAL MEMBERS OF CIVICA FOR  
PRESIDENCY. CONVERSATION WITH DA GRACA'S FRIEND INDICATE  
THAT APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM BELGIUM, BRAZIL,  
SOUTH AFRICA, ZAIRE, AND GABON ARE NOT GAINING RESULTS.  
FIRESTONE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, DEPENDENCIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BRUSSELS 2651  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LIBERATION OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, TP, SAO TOME, CIVICA, (DE GRACA, MIGUEL)  
**To:** STATE LIBREVILLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006